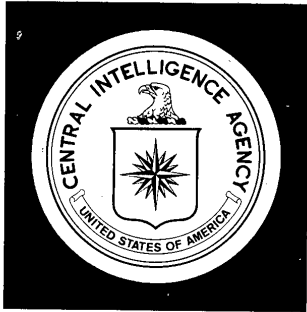




The President's Daily Brief

24 October 1972

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~~Top Secret~~

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

24 October 1972

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

A source with access to the Egyptian Interior Ministry has told US officials that the reports earlier this month of a serious coup attempt against President Sadat's government are not correct. (Page 1)

Yemen (Sana)

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Yemen (Aden)

(Page 2)

Government irregulars in Laos have not yet fully secured the southern provincial capital of Saravane. (Page 3)

Strikes by various commercial and professional groups in Chile are continuing

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(Page 3)

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EGYPT

A source with access to the Egyptian Interior Ministry has told US officials in Cairo that the reports earlier this month of a serious coup attempt are not correct. The official stated that the "incident" on 12 October was no more than a public harangue of crowds by members of an armored personnel carrier unit led by a "deranged captain." The dissidents criticized President Sadat for failing to press the war with Israel and attacked the proposed union with Libya. Several officers and men were subsequently arrested, including the unit's commanding general.

Although apparently not part of a well-planned move against Sadat, the episode reflects the frustration felt by some elements of the military with Egypt's dilemma and Sadat's inability to do anything about it.

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Reports periodically circulate in Cairo that Sadat is fed up and wants to resign. We have no evidence that he intends to do so in the near future, however. Nor do we see any sign of a concerted move to force his resignation.

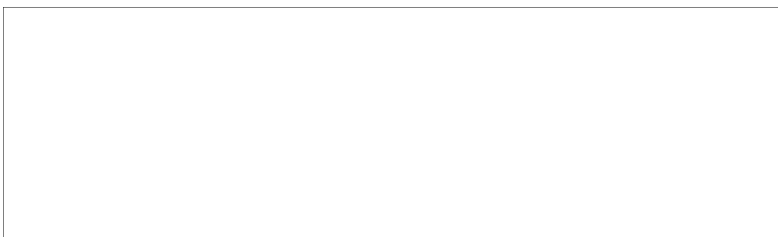
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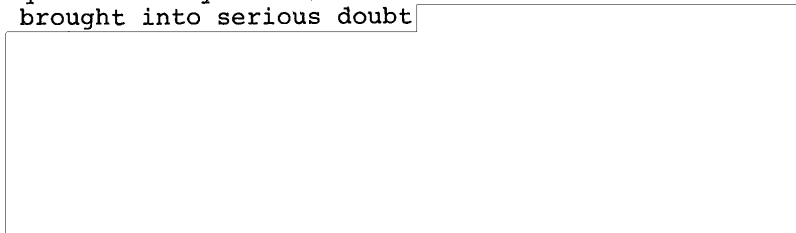
THE YEMENS

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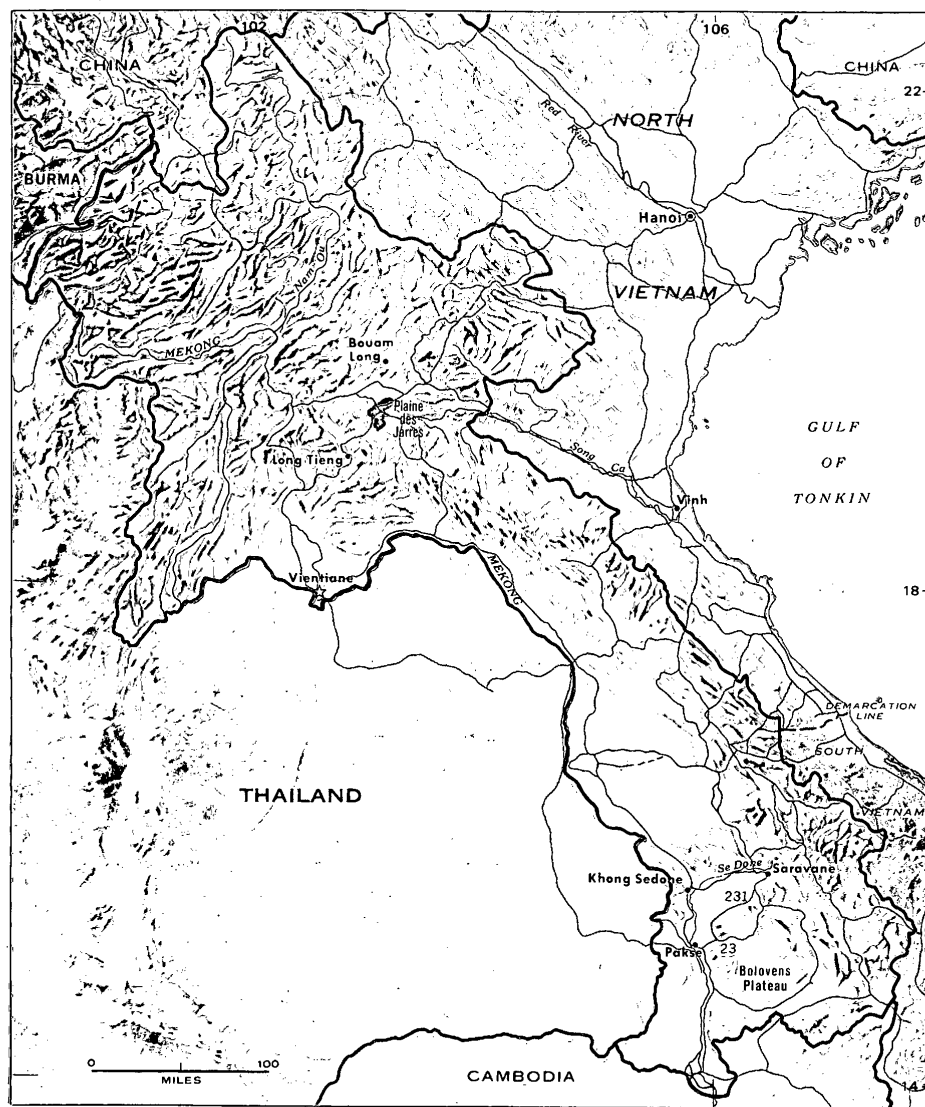
The commitment of Prime Minister al-Ayni to the overthrow of the leftist Aden regime--now being questioned by anti-Adeni dissidents--has been brought into serious doubt

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Meanwhile, the Sana and Aden delegations, meeting in Cairo under Arab League auspices, reached agreement yesterday on broad terms for the eventual unity of the two countries, according to a press report.

LAOS



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NOTES

Laos: Government irregulars have not yet fully secured the southern provincial capital of Saravane, as house-to-house fighting continues. To the west of the Bolovens Plateau, the Mekong Valley town of Khong Sedone remains in enemy hands. Government forces are facing stiff resistance as they attempt to push back into the area.

Chile: Strikes by various commercial and professional groups are continuing. Although there have been no major demonstrations since 20 October, opposition party leaders have called for a "day of silence" today and have expressed their resolve to continue the protests until their demands are met. Communist and Socialist party leaders, for their

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USSR - North Vietnam:

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